



US006131088A

United States Patent [19]

Hill

[11] **Patent Number:** **6,131,088**
[45] **Date of Patent:** ***Oct. 10, 2000**

[54] **ELECTRONIC CATALOG SYSTEM AND METHOD**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

2 105 075 5/1982 United Kingdom .

[75] Inventor: **Charles E. Hill**, Lynn, Ind.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[73] Assignee: **Charles E. Hill & Associates, Inc.**, Indianapolis, Ind.

Markoff, "Betting on a Different Videotex Idea," The New York Times, Jul. 12, 1989.

[*] Notice: This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

IBM, IBM Publishing Systems BookMaster, User's Guide, Release 2.0, Third Edition, Jan. 1989, pp. 315-328.

[21] Appl. No.: **09/080,603**

Conklin, "Hypertext: An Introduction and Survey", IEEE Computer, Sep. 1987, pp. 17-41.

[22] Filed: **May 18, 1998**

Blasgen, et al., "System R: An Architectural Update", IBM Research Report RJ2581, San Jose, California, Jul. 1979.

Related U.S. Application Data

(List continued on next page.)

[60] Continuation of application No. 08/747,275, Nov. 12, 1996, Pat. No. 5,754,864, which is a division of application No. 08/460,913, Jun. 5, 1995, Pat. No. 5,761,649, which is a continuation of application No. 07/866,867, Apr. 10, 1992, Pat. No. 5,528,490.

Primary Examiner—Stephen R. Tkacs

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bose McKinney & Evans LLP

[51] **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 9/00**; G06F 17/60
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **705/27**; 705/26; 707/104;
707/530; 707/540; 709/208; 713/191; 717/11
[58] **Field of Search** 705/26, 27; 395/712,
395/187.01, 200.47, 200.49; 707/10, 104,
101, 102, 203, 530, 540; 717/11; 713/191;
709/208

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Methods for accessing product information data and detecting pirated copies of a serialized software program include transmitting a data request query related to a selected product from a remote computer to a main computer, identifying a subset of product data related to the selected product stored in the memory of the main computer based on the data request query, transmitting textual data from the subset of product data from the main computer to the remote computer, transmitting only updated graphics data from the main computer to the remote computer, and combining the textual data received from the main computer with graphics data stored in the memory of the remote computer to provide complete product information data related to the selected product. The methods also include storing a program serial number, the remote revision level corresponding to the program serial number, and a validation code for a remote program corresponding to the serial number. The methods detect whether the program stored in the remote memory is valid or invalid based upon the validation code corresponding to the program serial number.

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Re. 32,115	4/1986	Lockwood et al.	235/381
3,653,001	3/1972	Ninke	345/432
3,757,037	9/1973	Bialek	348/107
3,899,775	8/1975	Larsen	705/21
4,091,448	5/1978	Clausing	235/379
4,149,246	4/1979	Goldman	364/470.03
4,186,438	1/1980	Benson et al.	711/113
4,200,930	4/1980	Rawlings et al.	395/200.42
4,204,251	5/1980	Brudevold	710/129
4,289,930	9/1981	Connolly et al.	345/169
4,319,336	3/1982	Anderson et al.	705/21
4,359,631	11/1982	Lockwood et al.	235/381

(List continued on next page.)

12 Claims, 19 Drawing Sheets

